

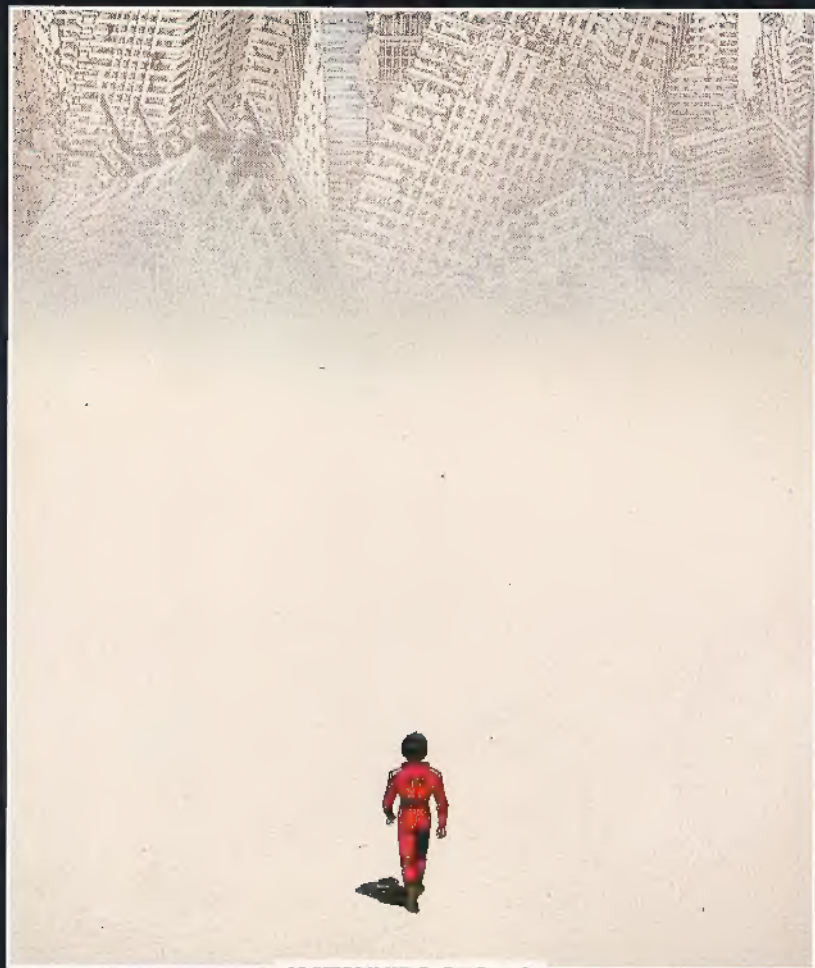
AKIRA

38

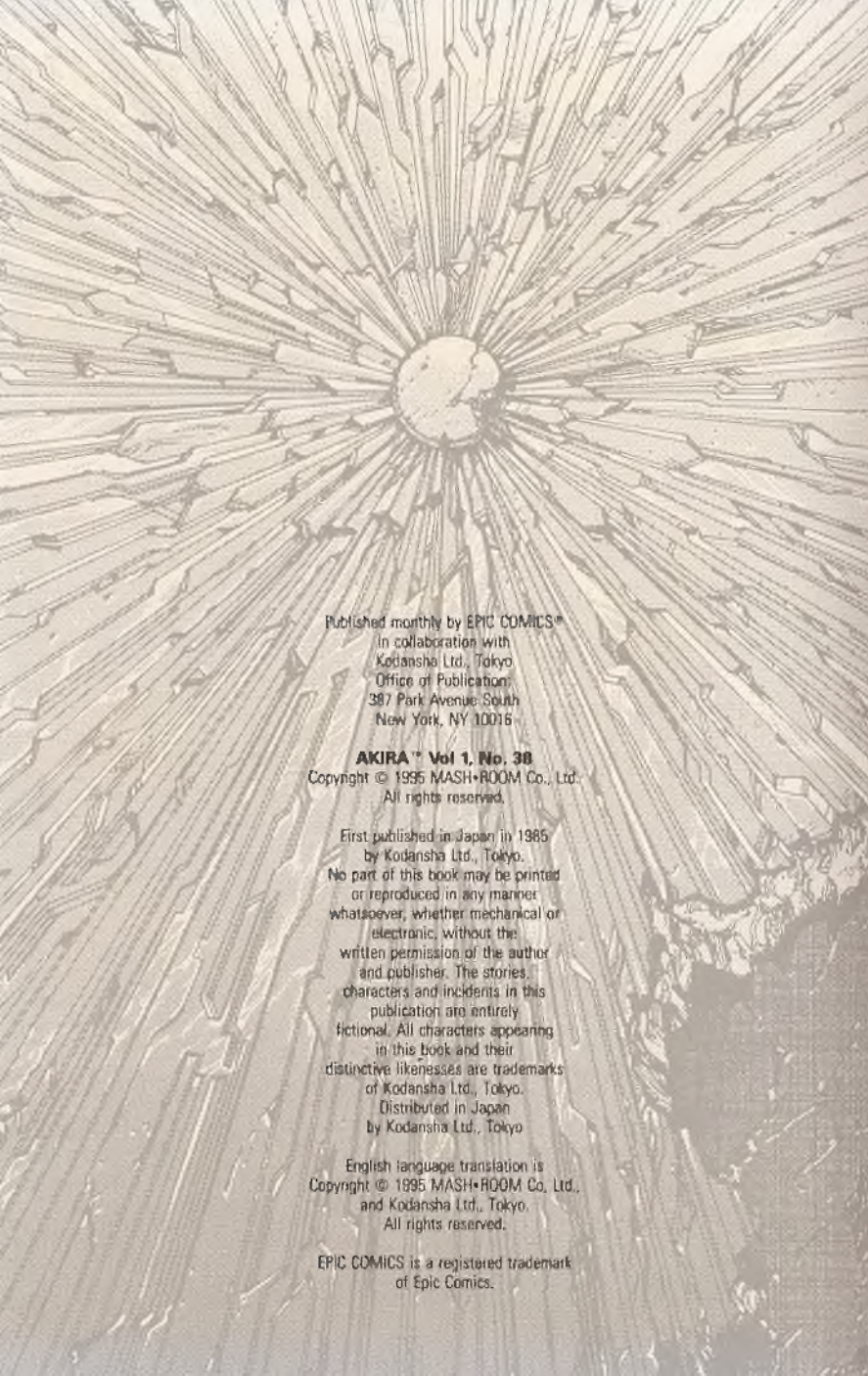
TM



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 38

THE FINAL CHAPTER

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known only as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

The Colonel had a number of psychic children under his control. Each one was identified by a number tattooed on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** — Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako** — Number 19 — now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, who lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SOL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28 — **Akira**. Almost forty years ago he started the Third World War with a mental blast. He has since been in a cryogenic sleep. **Akira** was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. Japan now exists in a state of

emergency, with the army and the members of the resistance scattered throughout.

In the western part of Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on **Tetsuo's** forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** can only lead to disaster. When the fleet sends fighter planes against **Tetsuo**, he sinks their flagship, forcing the survivors to flee.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins **Miyako's** forces in battle against **Tetsuo**, because **Kay** is a powerful medium, through

whom the others can project their powers and strike as one.

Kaneda teams up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a friend and rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a ragtag force to help **Kay** battle **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on, drawn by the similarity of Tetsuo's powers to his own.

Tetsuo is griefstricken over the death of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori**. He carries her body to the underground chamber where **Akira** once slept. **Akira** follows and is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**, **Chiyoko** and **Ryu**. They prepare to fight in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.

Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. For a moment, it seems that contact with **Kaneda** has restored Tetsuo's humanity. Then, Tetsuo's power comes surging back and **Kaneda** is drawn into his monstrous form, apparently consumed. As the battle rages, **Akira** becomes more alert. Terrified at what might occur if **Akira** awakens fully, **Ryu** panics. He draws a gun and shoots **Akira**, setting the boy's power free.

Seeking a new power source for himself, **Tetsuo** flies to Lady Miyako's shrine. **Kay** follows in hot pursuit. **Lady Miyako** instructs **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** to look after **Akira**, and the pair teleport away to help their friend. **Lady Miyako**, her followers, and **Kay**

prepare to make a final stand against **Tetsuo**.

Kiyoko and **Masaru** meet **Akira** on the psychic plane. They are joined by the spirits of all the gifted children who have died before.

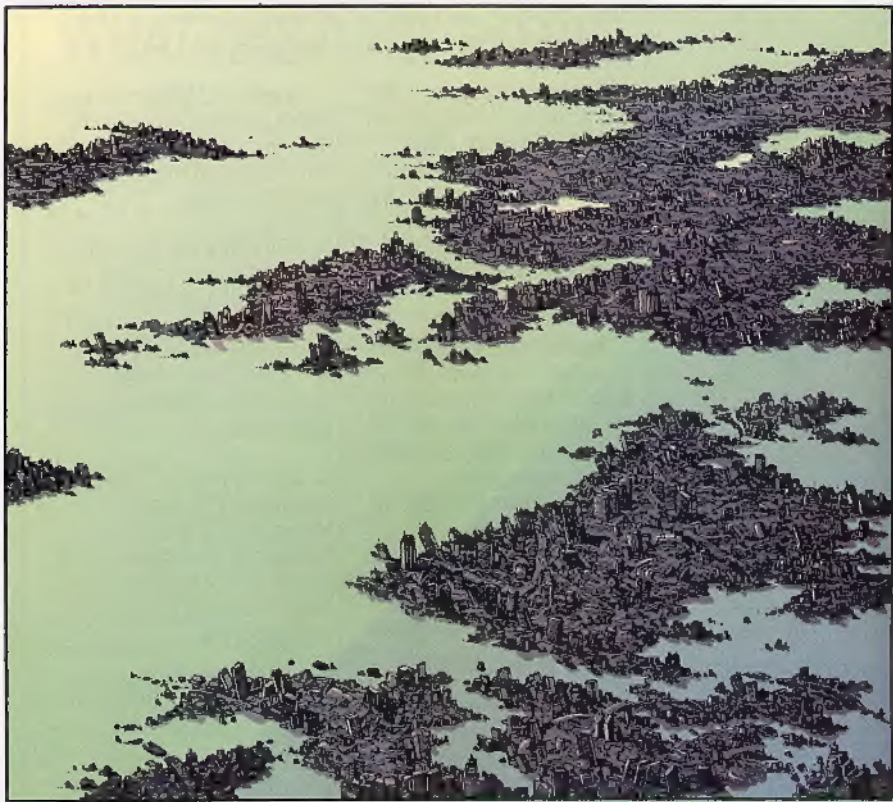
Telling **Kay** that the resolution depends on her, **Lady Miyako** heroically draws **Tetsuo** to herself and is killed. As she dies, she, too, is drawn to the spirit plane, where the souls of friends who have gone before await.

Kay is guided in battle by her late mentor's commands, and is able to break through to **Tetsuo**. His concentration interrupted, he is vulnerable, and is himself consumed by the force of **Akira**'s mind.

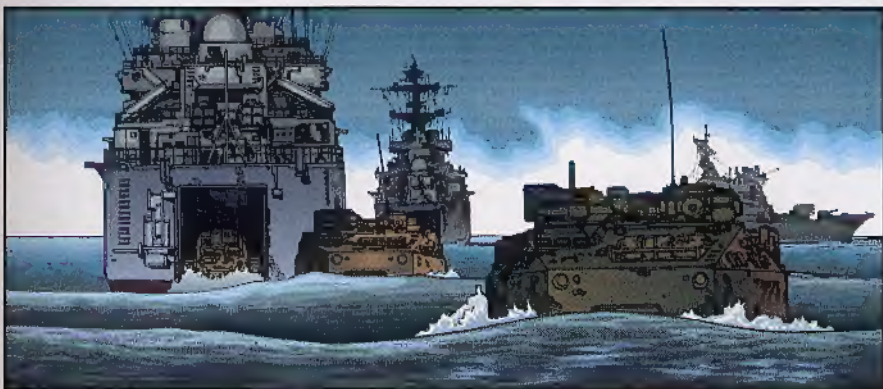
Trapped within Tetsuo's soul, **Kaneda** experiences a fractured, kaleidoscopic journey through his late friend's life and hardships. He shares with **Tetsuo** both the good memories and the bad.

Kaneda is contacted by Lady Miyako's spirit, and is stunned by what she tells him. Although **Tetsuo** and **Akira** were created in laboratories, they, along with all the catastrophe they bring, are a vital part of mankind's evolution. All this madness has been part of a greater cosmic good.

As Tetsuo's spirit joins the others on a higher plane, **Kaneda** is guided back to reality, sanity and safety by friends who still need him in the world he left behind.

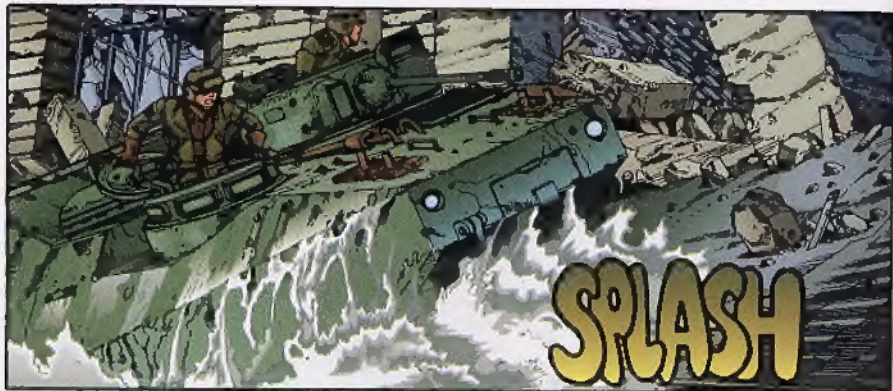


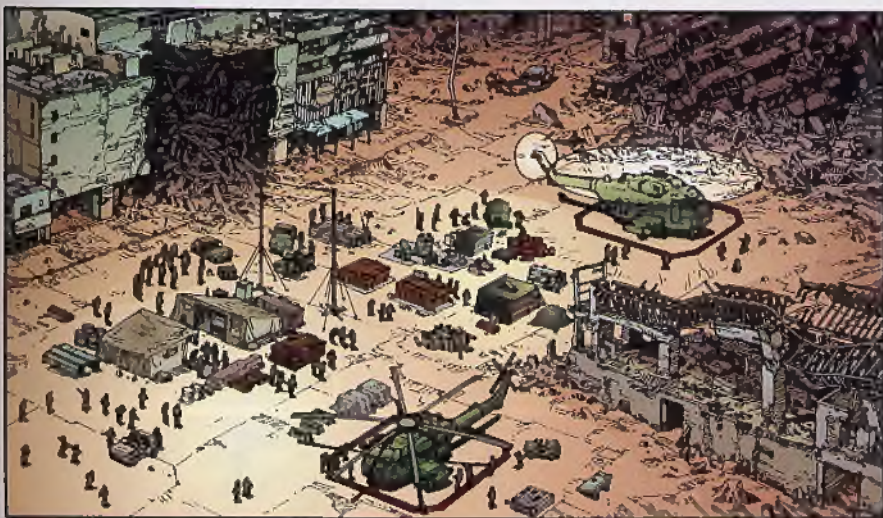
KLANK
KLANK

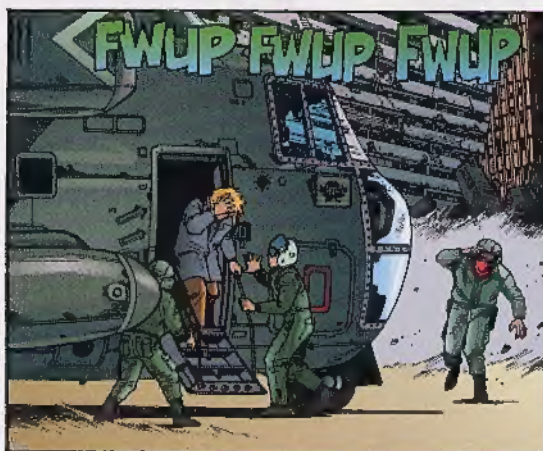


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BUDDA

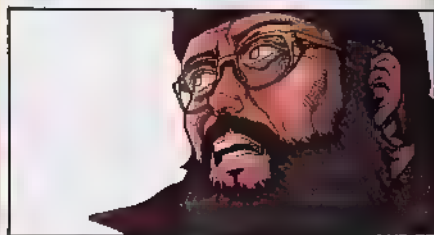
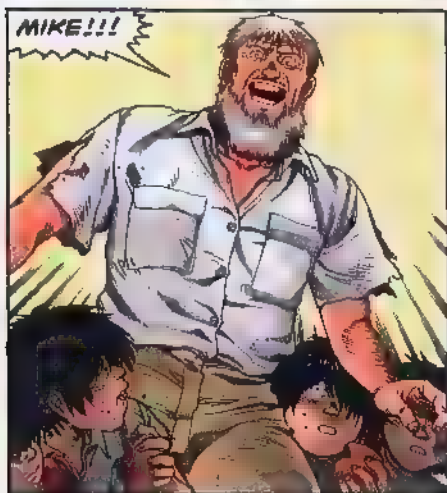
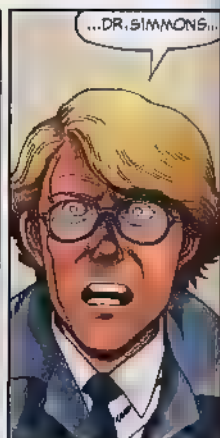
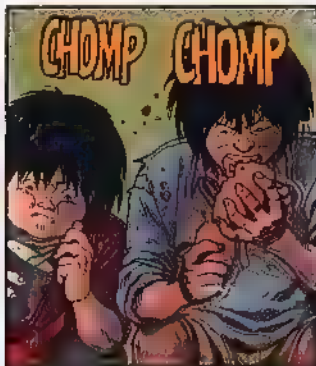


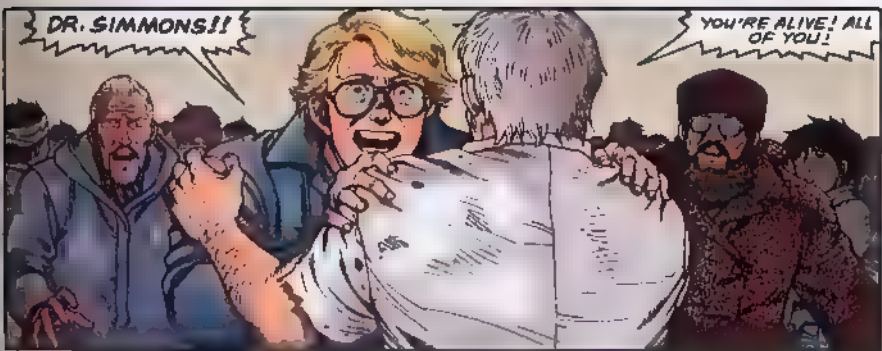
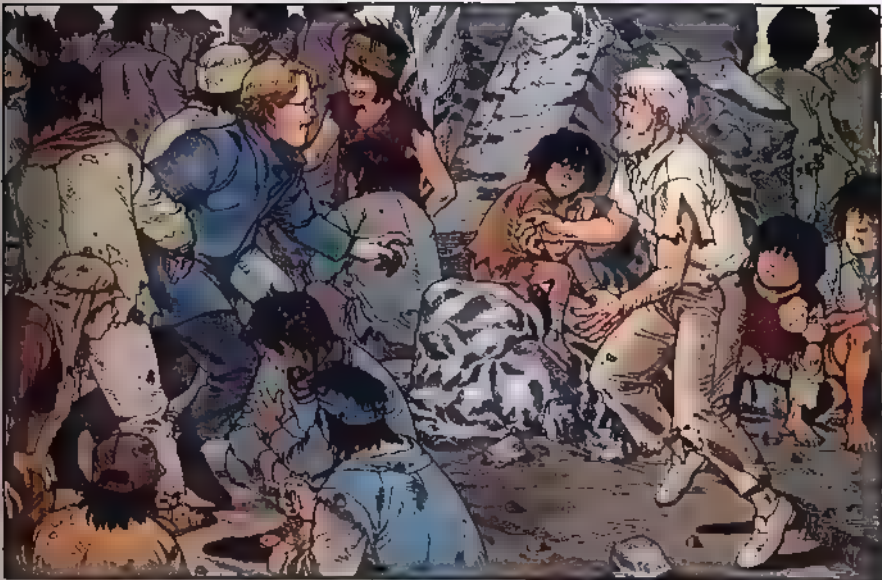


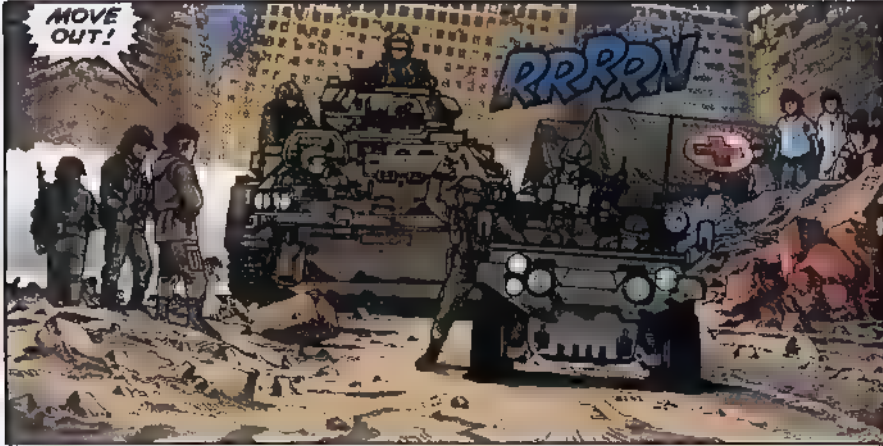


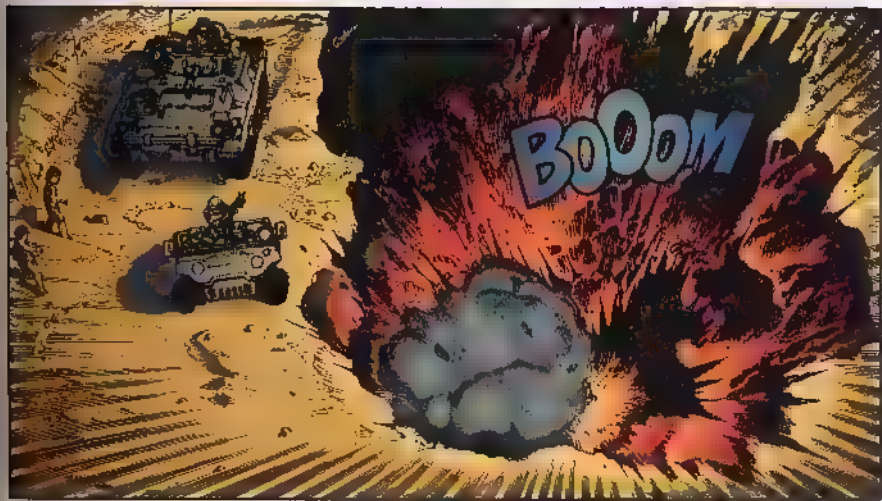
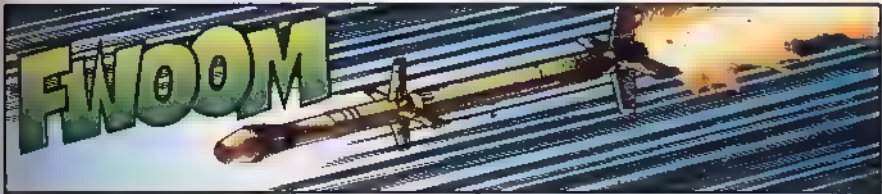


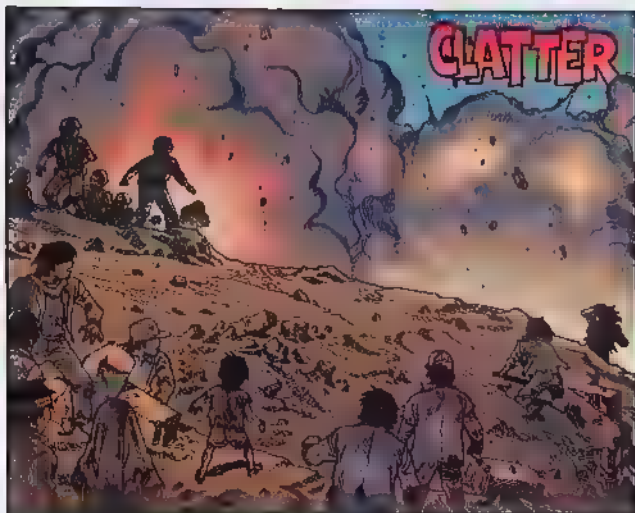
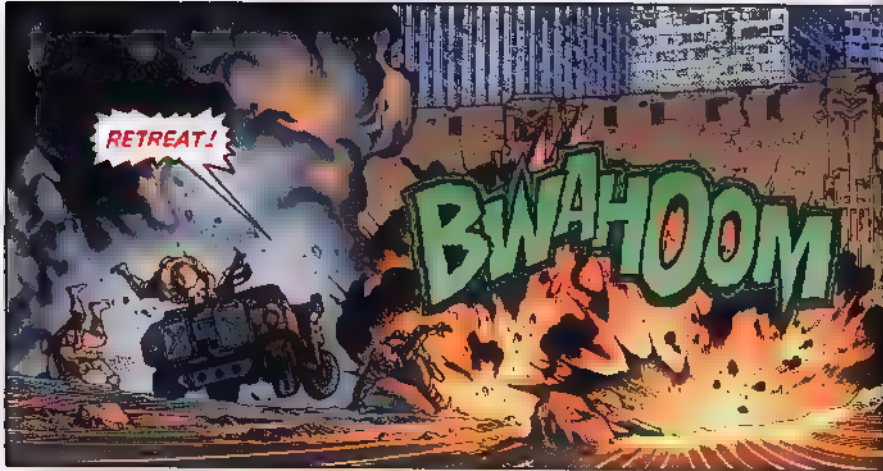


















WHO'S IN
CHARGE HERE? I
WANNA TALK TO
THE BOSS!



DON'T TELL ME MY LITTLE
FIGHT SHOW ACTUALLY
SCARED YOU SOLDIER
BOYS.



STOP TRYING TO PROVOKE
US! WE HAVEN'T COME
HERE TO FIGHT!



NO? THEN HOW COME
ALL THE GUNS AND
TANKS AND AMMO?



WE ARE AN
OFFICIAL
PEACEKEEPING
FORCE SENT
BY THE UNITED
NATIONS TO
HELP
REFUGEES
AND RESTORE
ORDER!

BULLSHIT!



PACK UP YOUR WEAPONS--



--AND GET THE HELL OUT OF OUR COUNTRY!

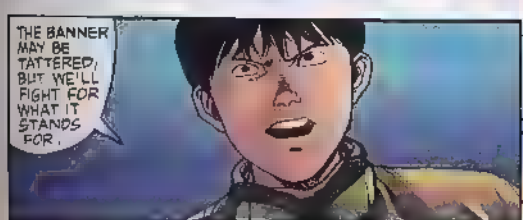
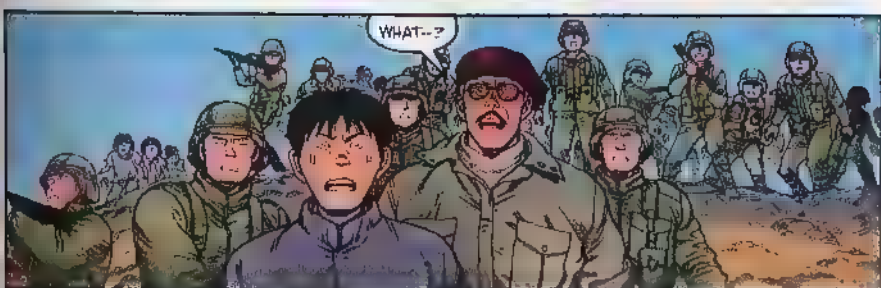
YEAH, YOU HEARD THE MAN.

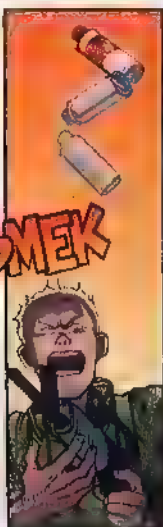
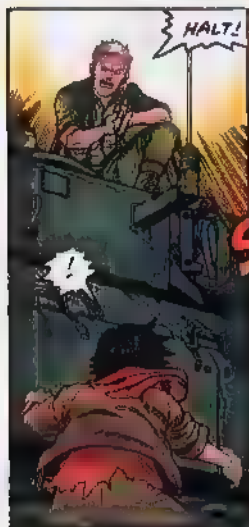


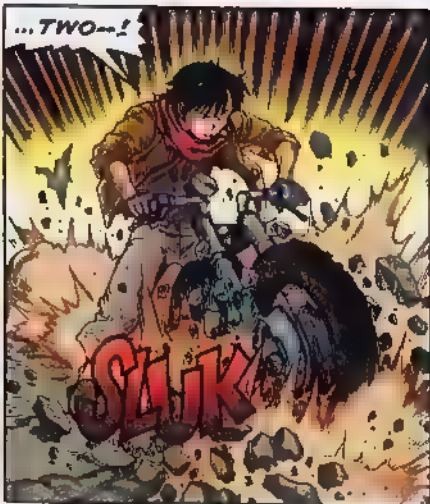
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT?

GET A LOAD OF THIS!



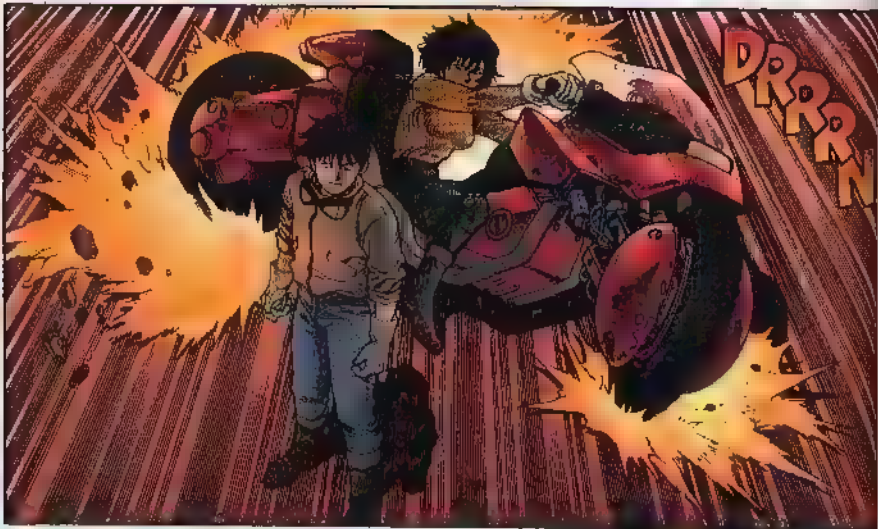


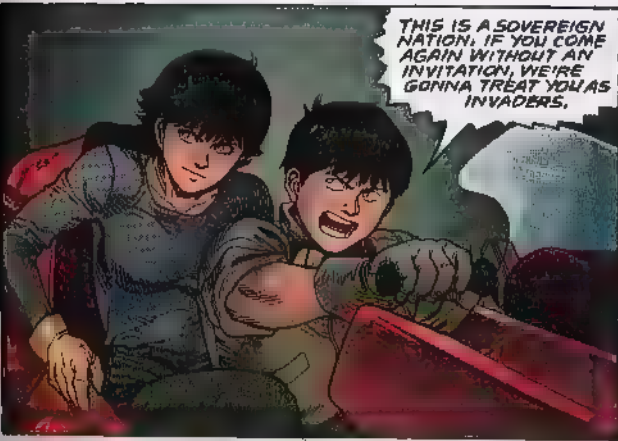


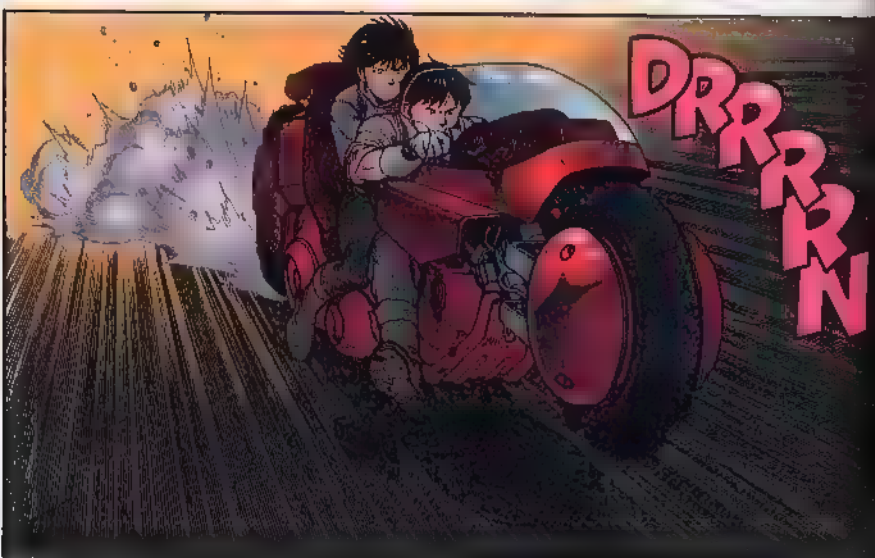
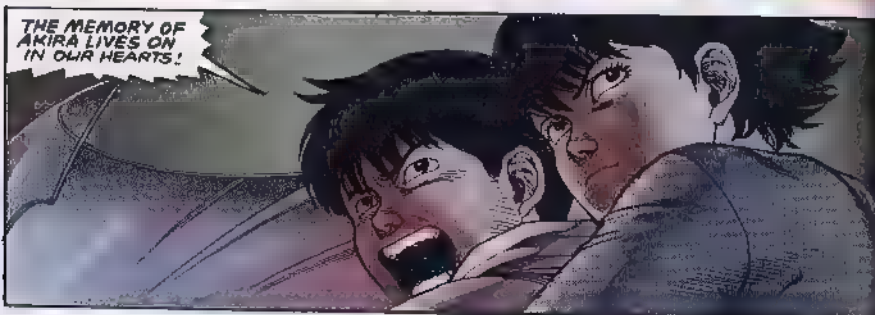


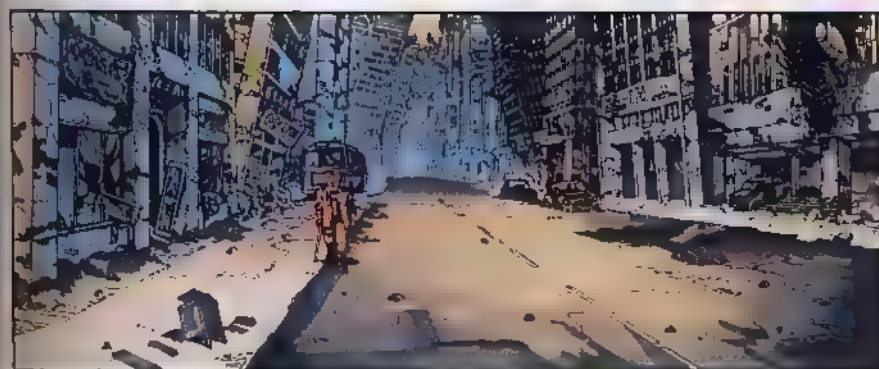


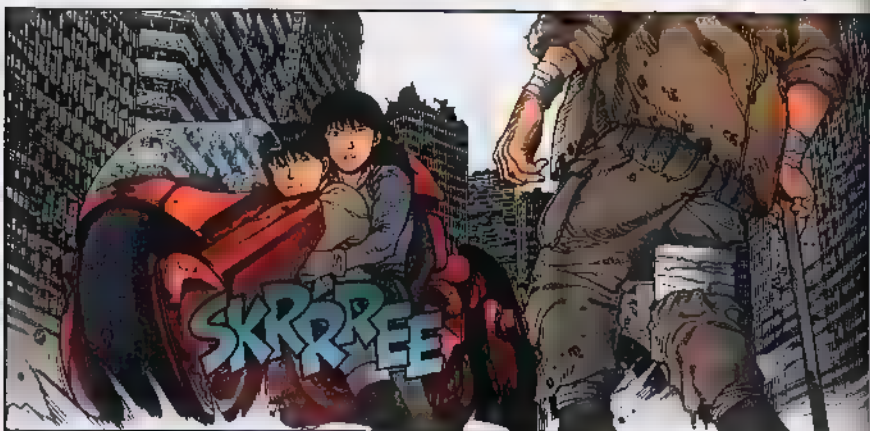




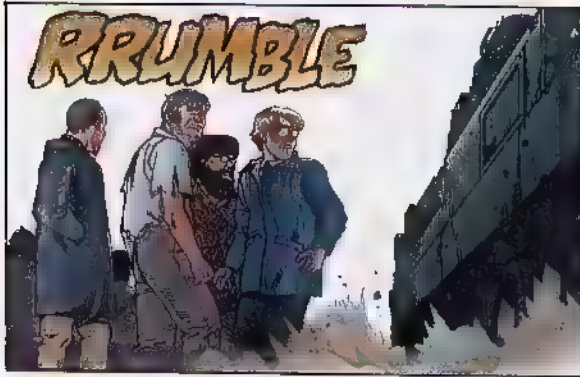
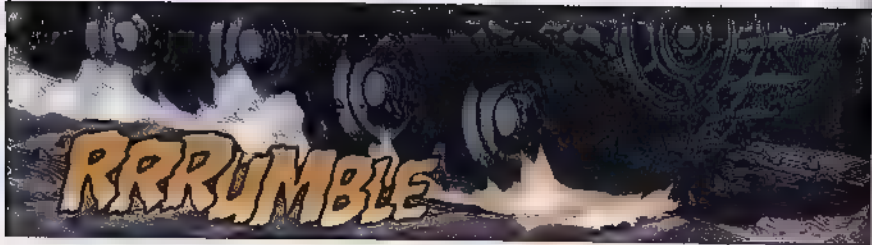


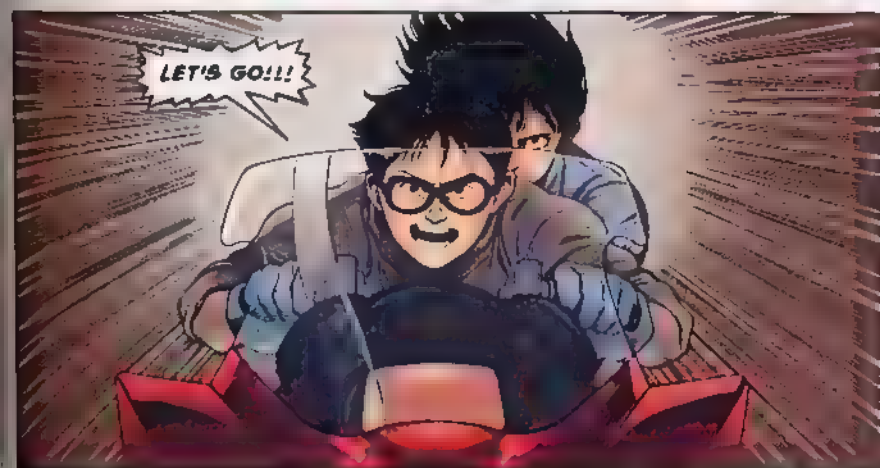
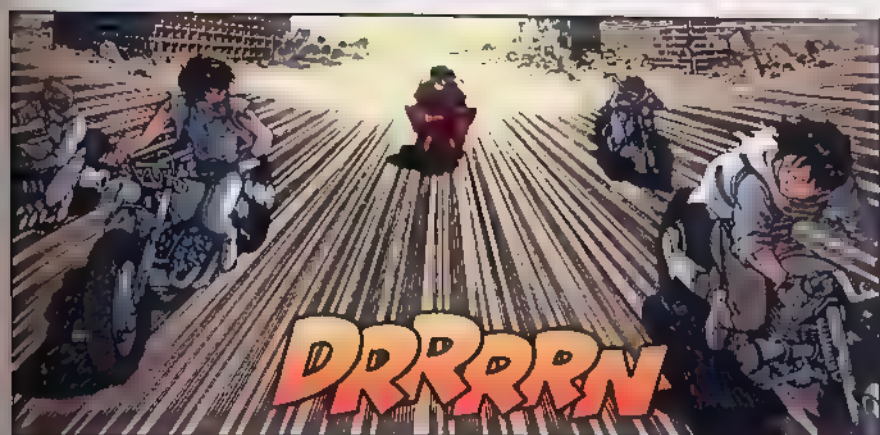


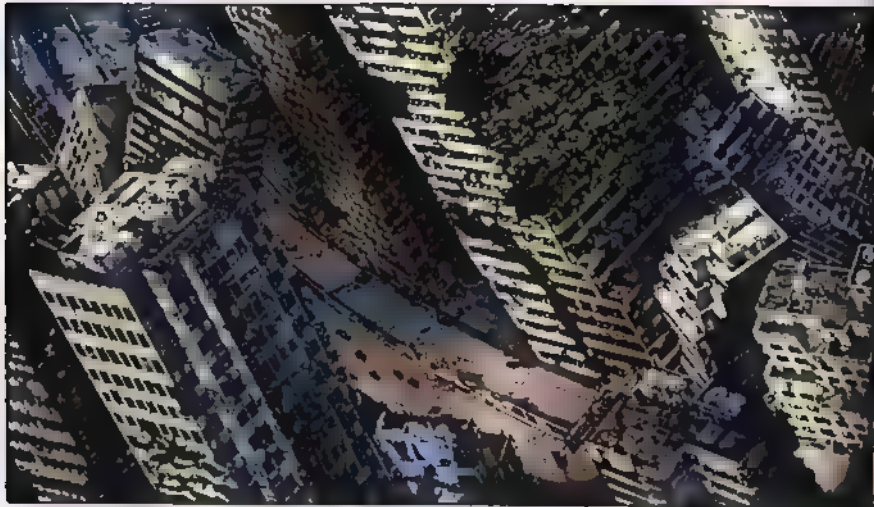


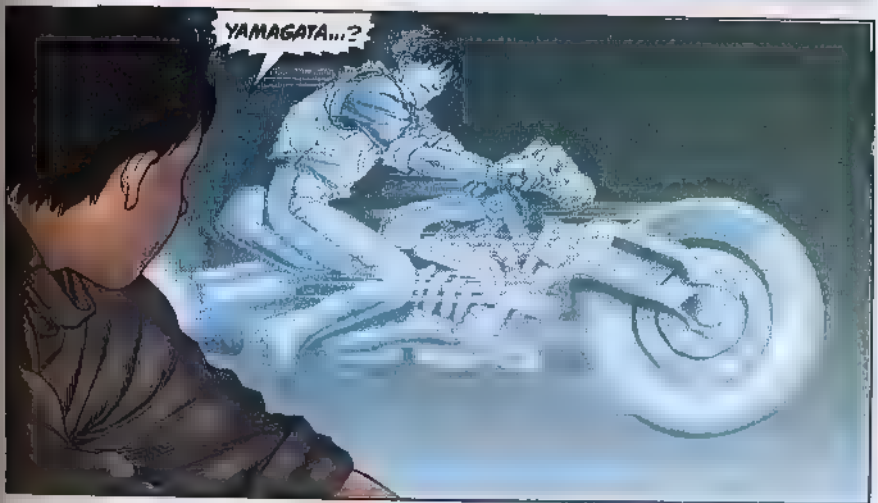
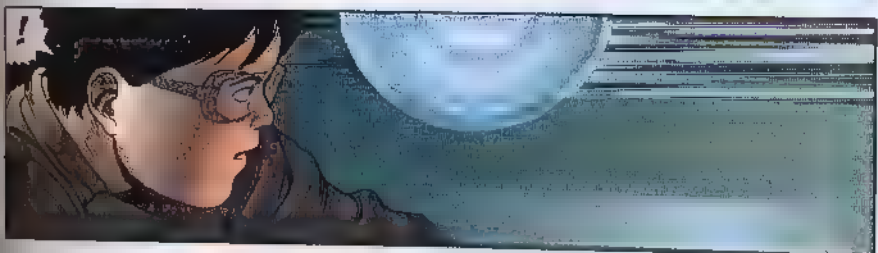
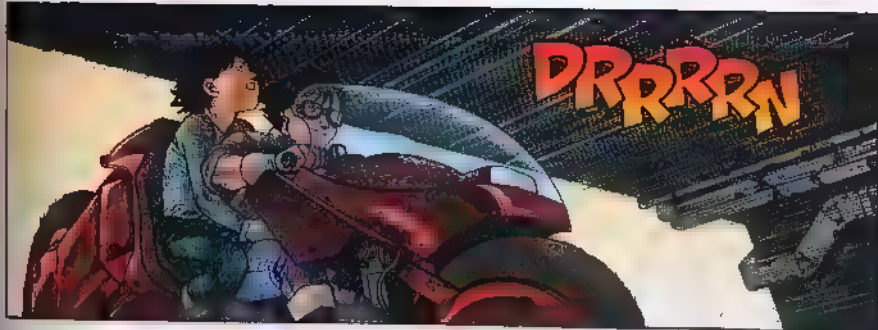


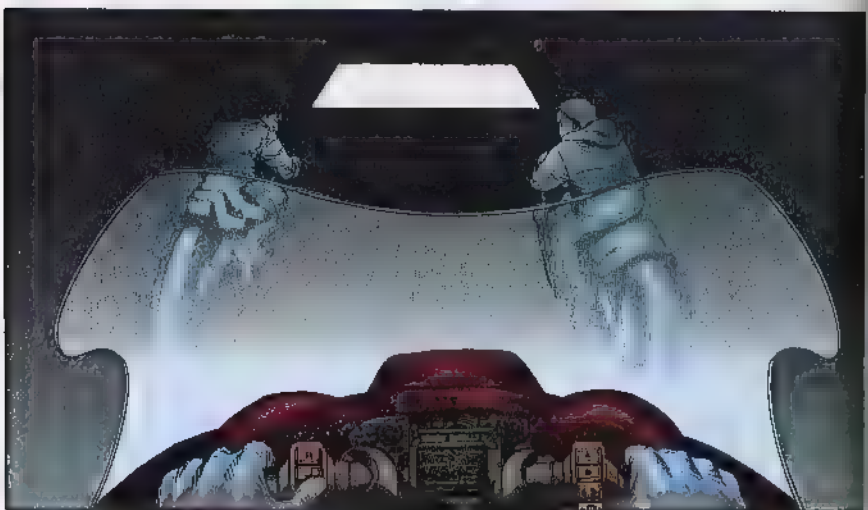
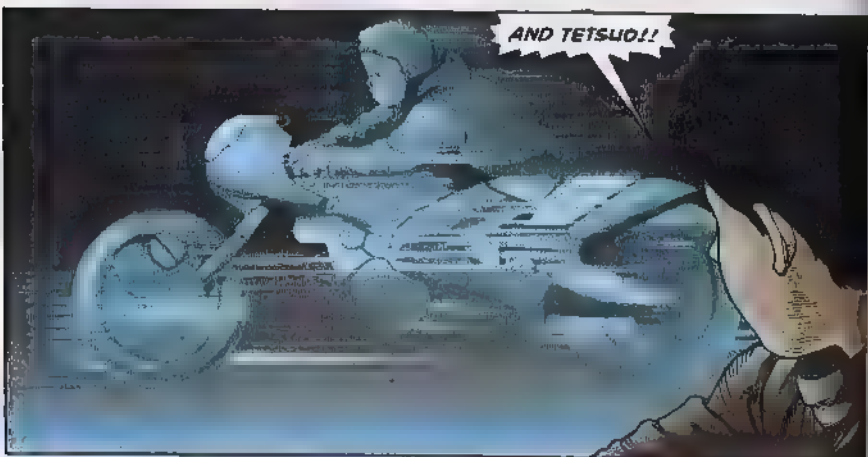
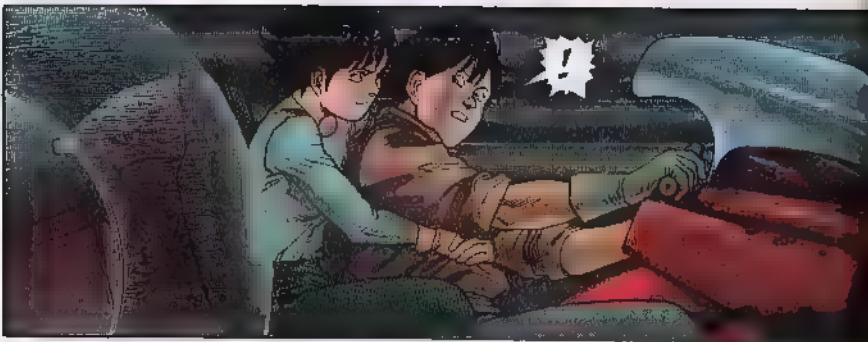


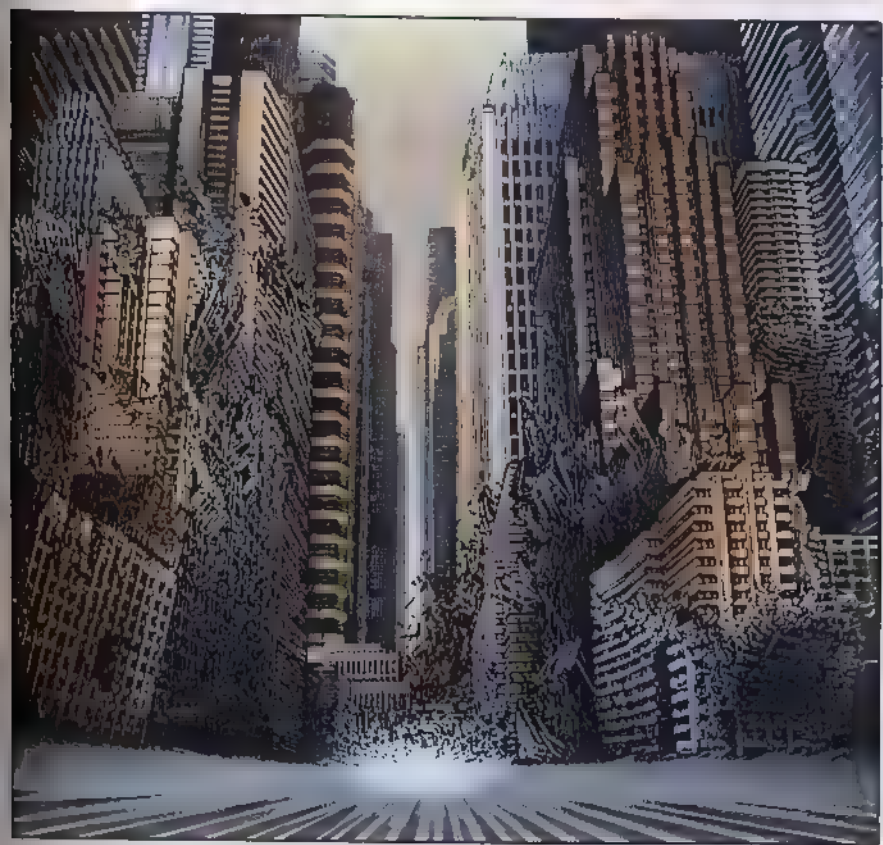
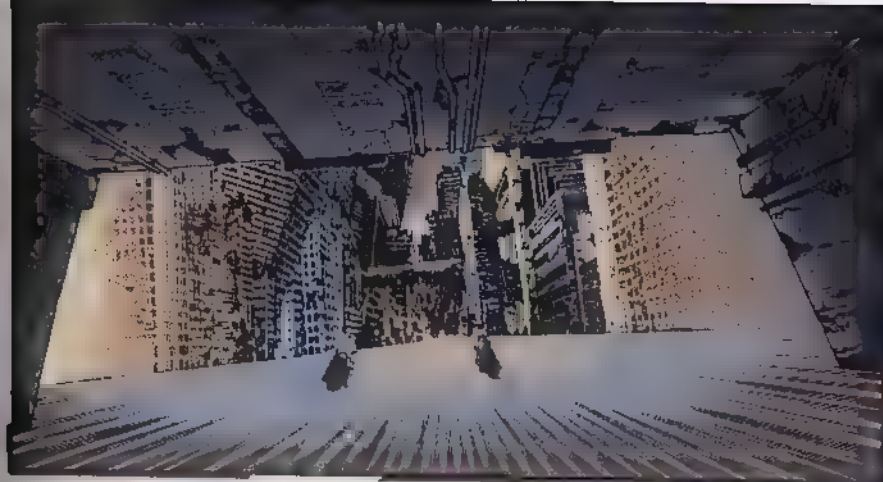


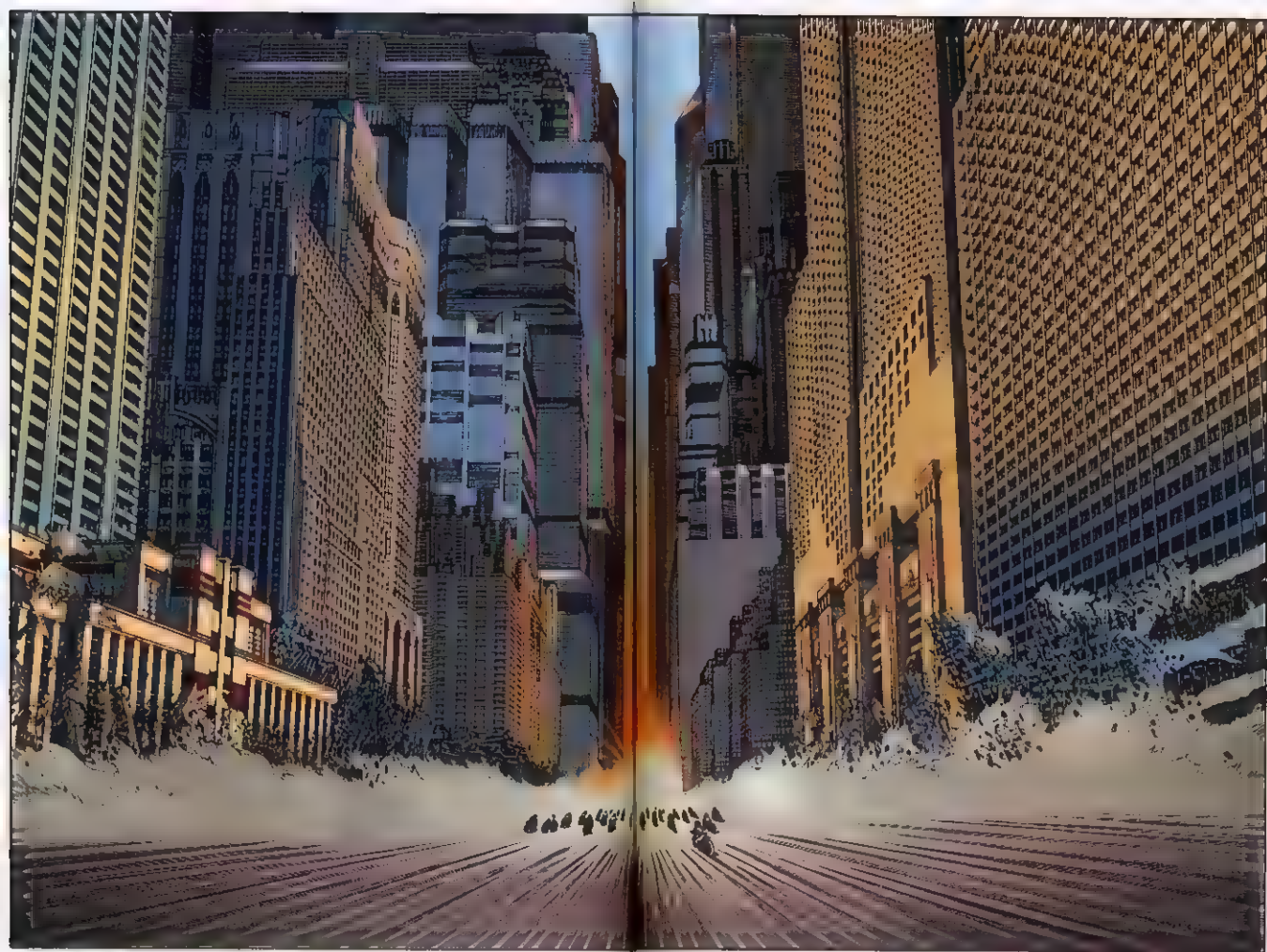


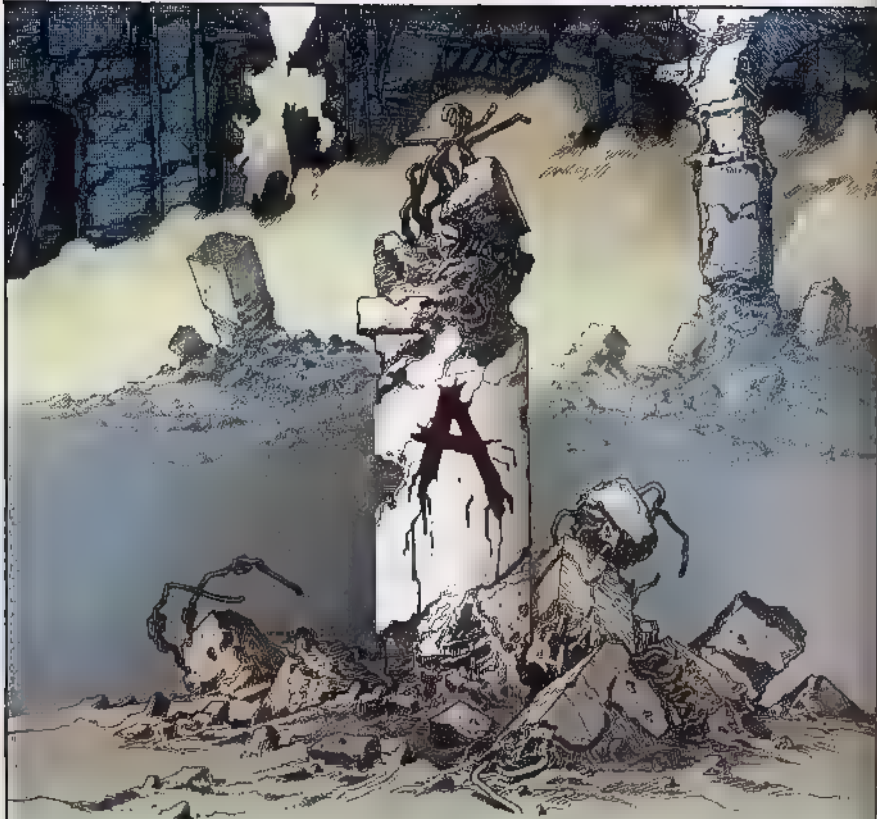












AKIRA

THE END



AKIRA

TRIBUTES

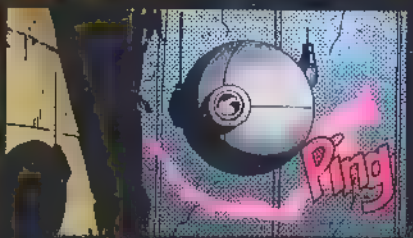
FEATURING WORKS BY:

MARK CHIARELLO, MOEBIUS
JOE MADUREIRA, GEORGE PRATT
MIKE ALLRED, JOHN ROMITA
ALEX TOTH, KEVIN O'NEIL
JOHN VAN FLEET

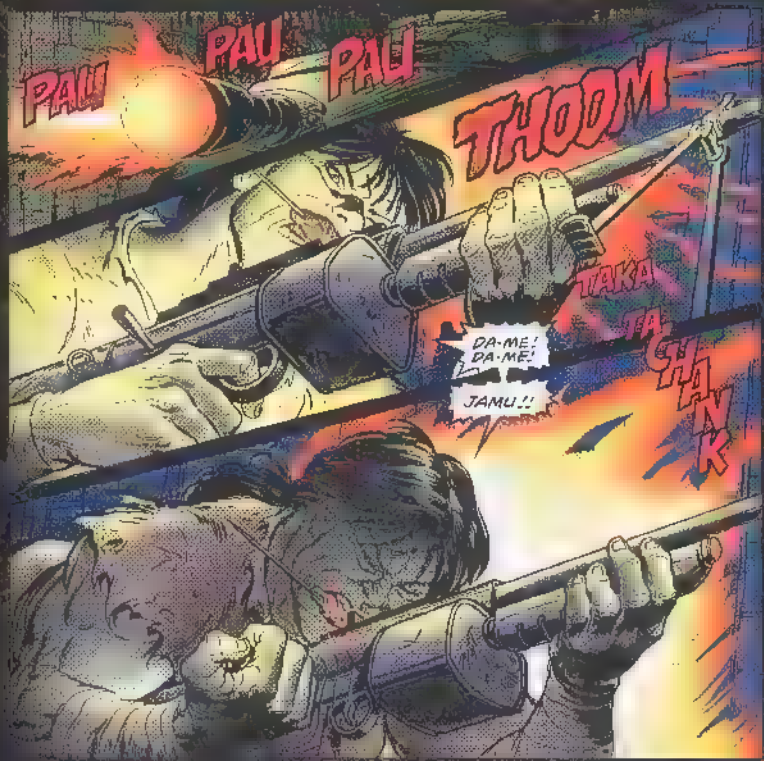
YAKITORI

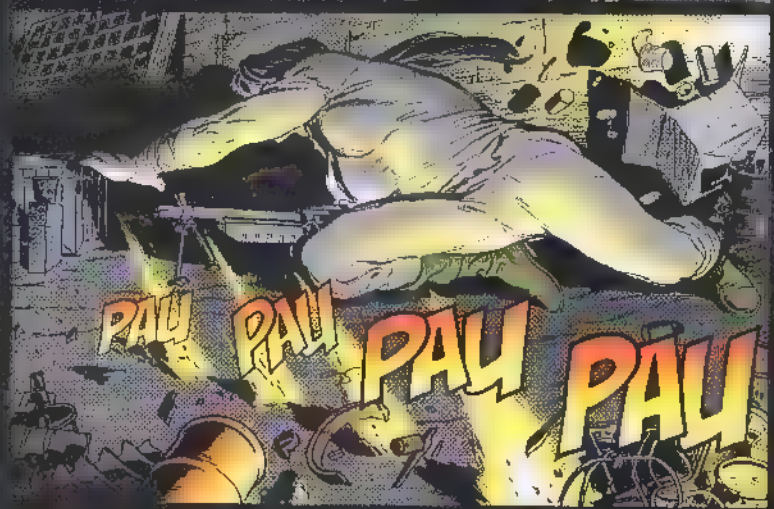
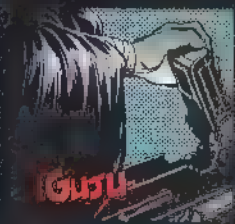
ITADAKIMASHI.

LARRY HAMA
SCRIPT
BRET BLEVINS
ART
STEVE BUCCELATO
COLORS

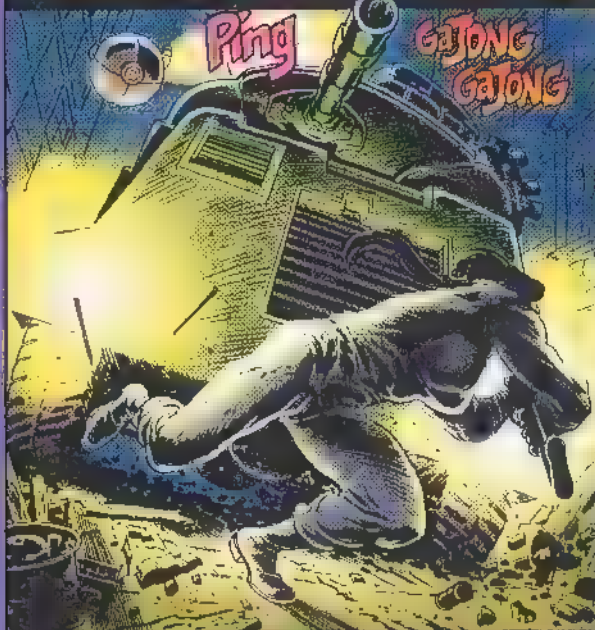








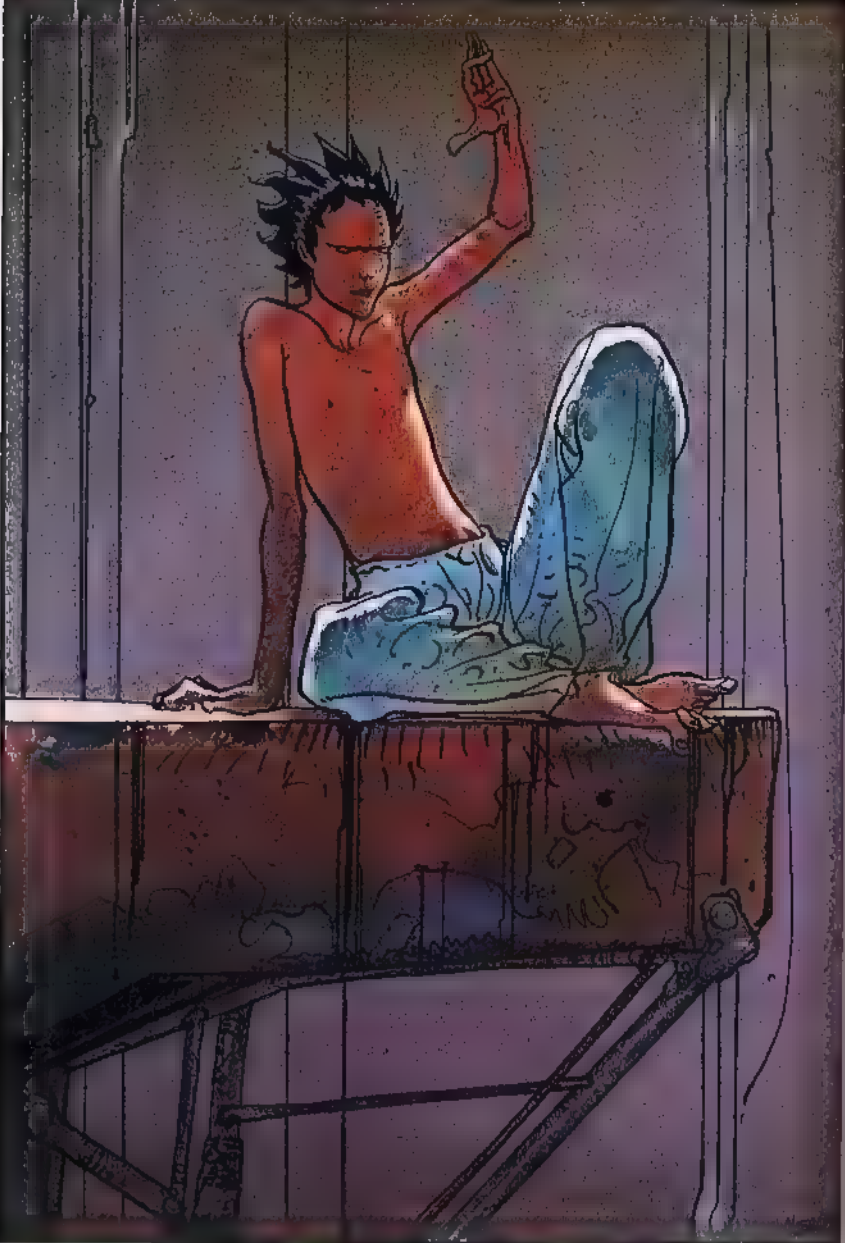




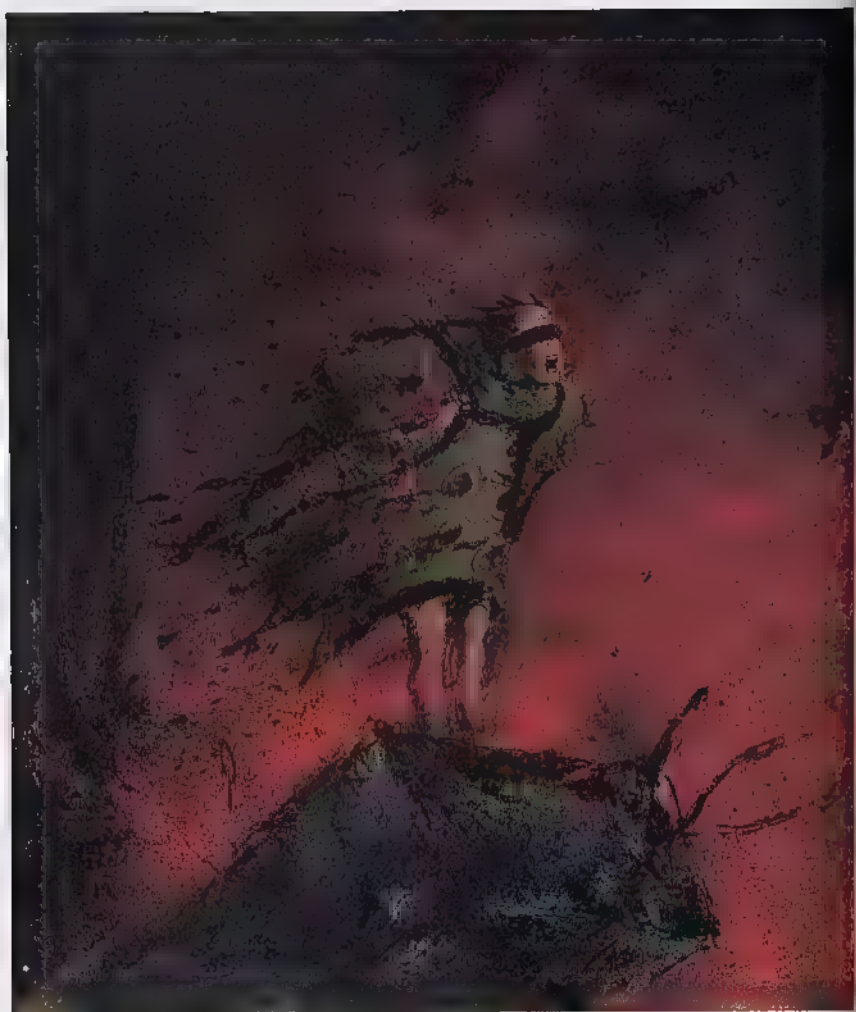


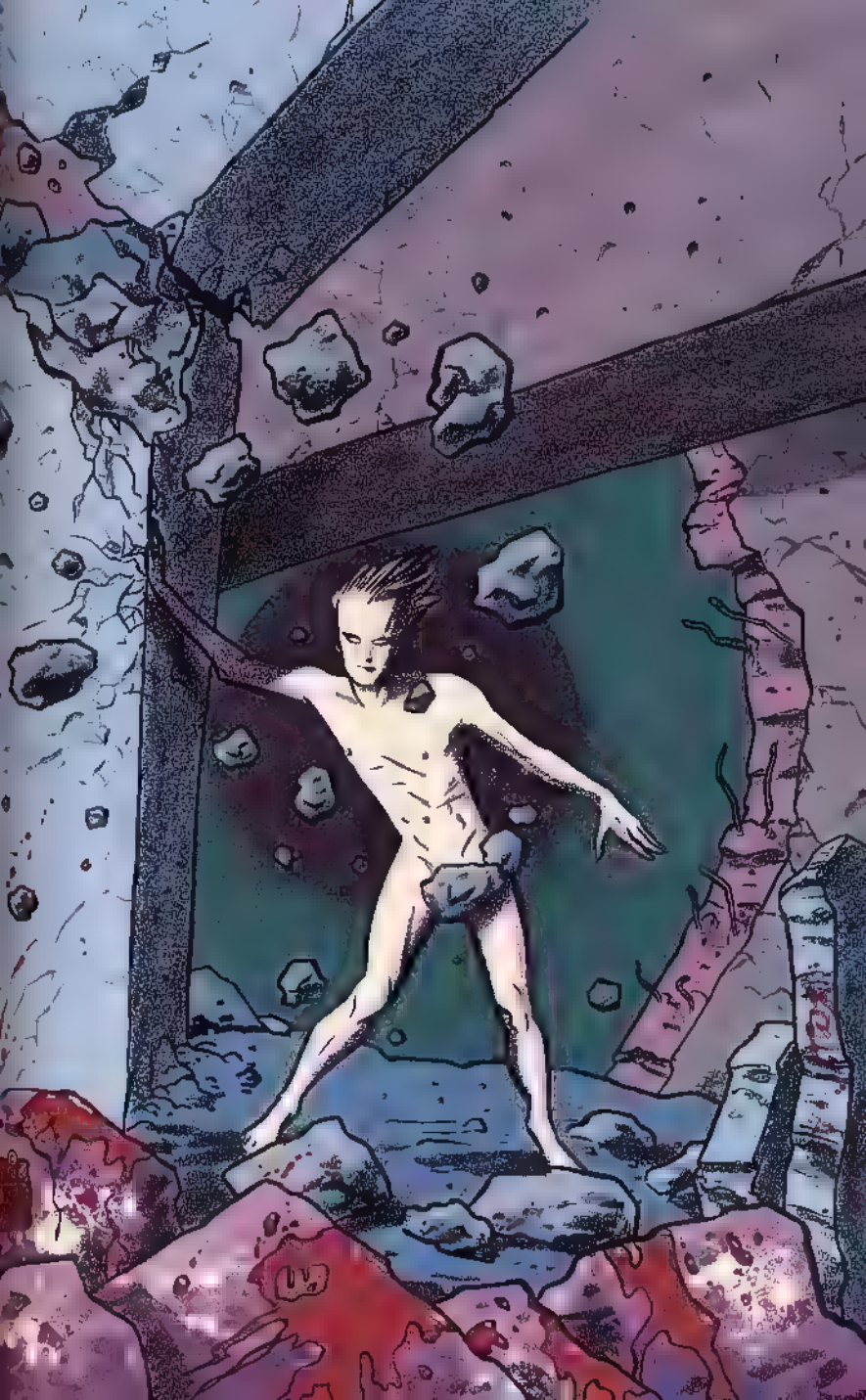
BADDOOM









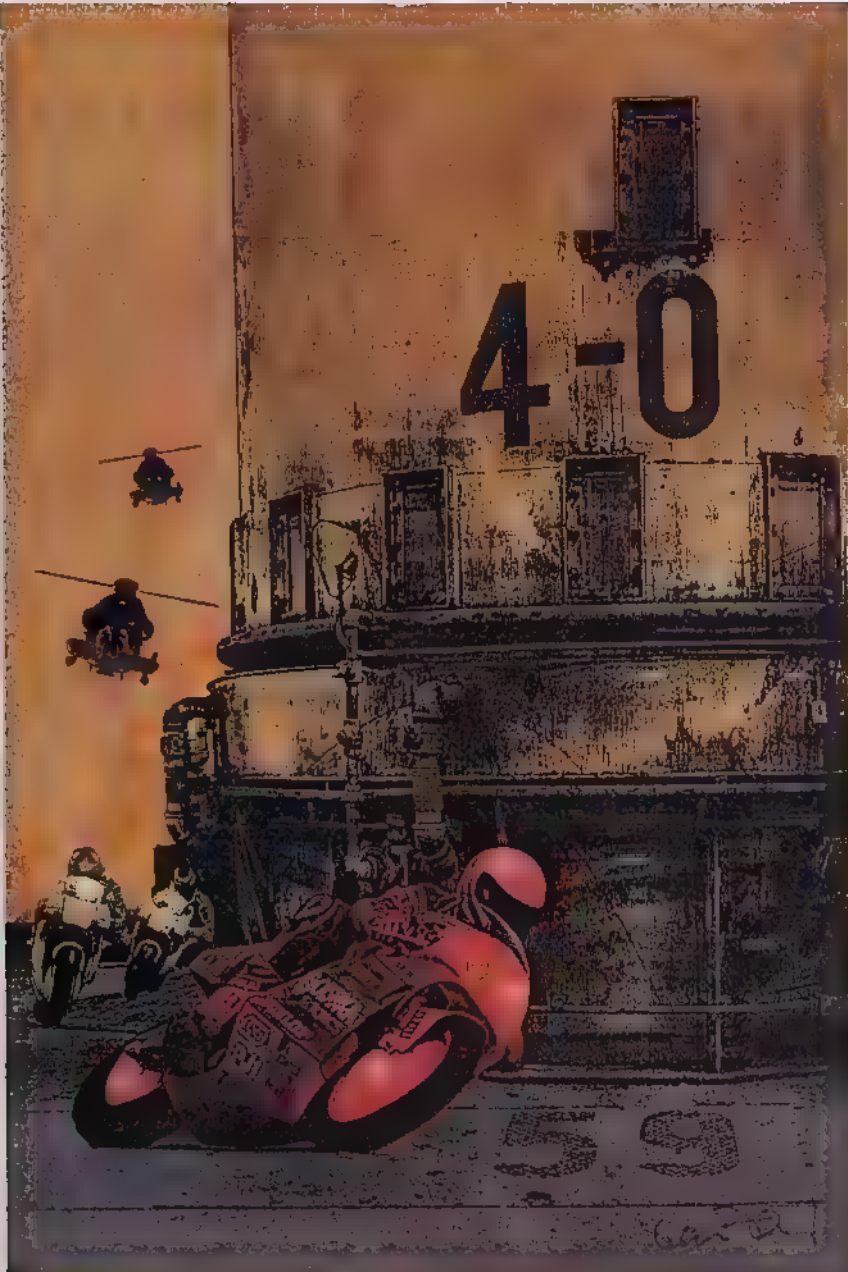


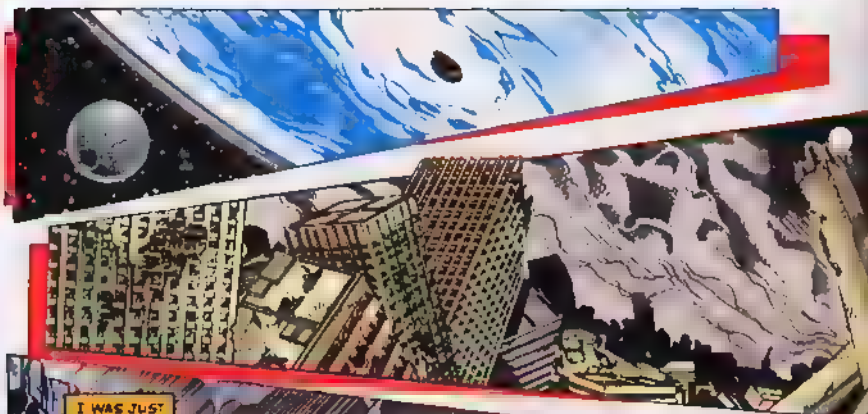




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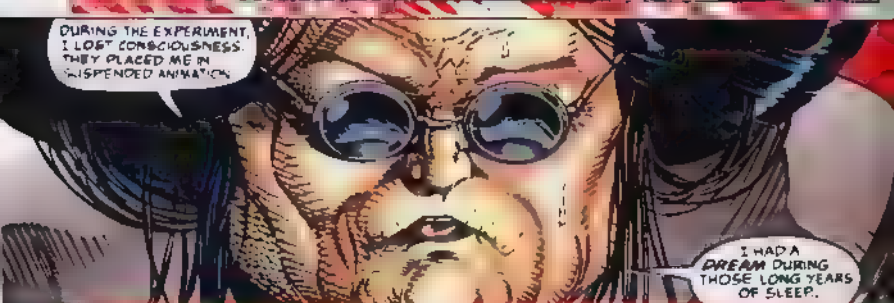




I WAS JUST
TEN YEARS
OLD.



DURING THE EXPERIMENT,
I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.
THEY PLACED ME IN
SUSPENDED ANIMATION.



I HAD A
DREAM DURING
THOSE LONG YEARS
OF SLEEP.



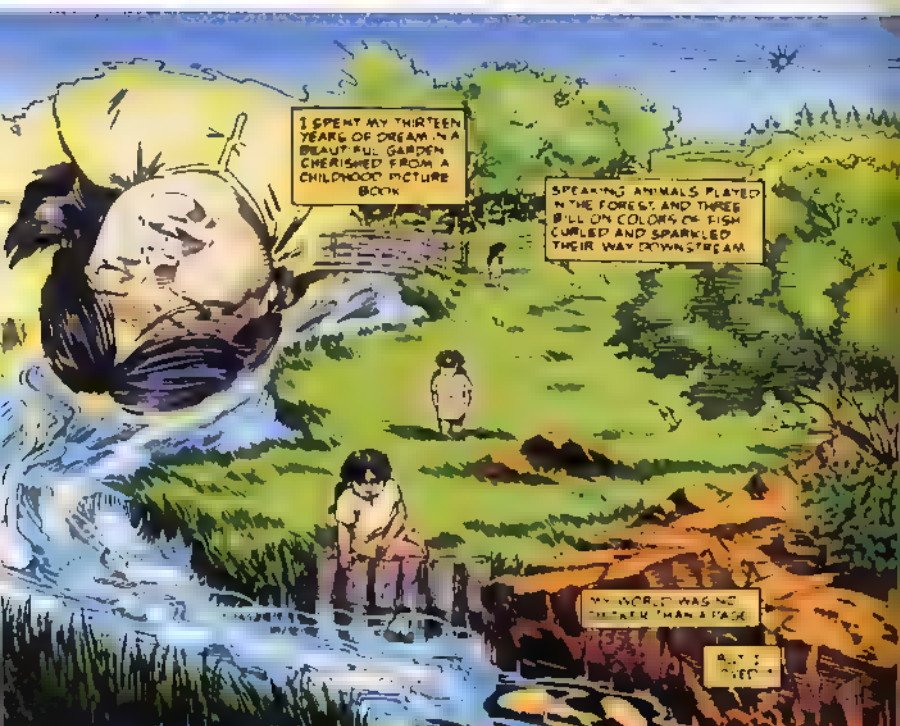
IT WAS COMPOSED
OF FRAGMENTARY
PAGES...

OF AKIRA...
NEO-TOKYO...

...OF TETSUO...
THE FUTURE...

Candy Flower
NAPALM

STORY - WARREN ELLIS
ART - TERRY SHOEMAKER
COLOR - BRIAN BUCCIELATO



I SPENT MY THIRTEEN YEARS OF DREAM IN A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN, CHERISHED FROM A CHILDHOOD PICTURE BOOK.

SPEAKING ANIMALS PLAYED IN THE FOREST, AND THREE BILLION COLORS OF FISH CURLED AND SPARKLED THEIR WAY DOWNSTREAM.

MY WORLD WAS NO DEEPER THAN A PAGE.

BUT I LIVED.

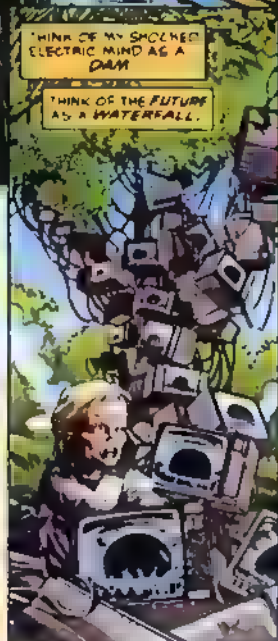


I THINK OF MY SHOCKED ELECTRIC MIND AS A DAM.

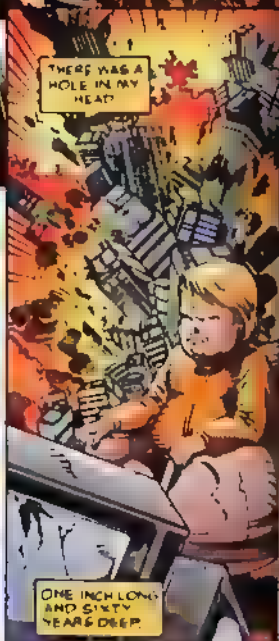
I THINK OF THE FUTURE AS A WATERFALL.

AT FIRST I IGNORED THE STAINS SEEPING INTO MY PAPER GARDEN.

THE TREES WERE JUST TREES, I SAID, AND MADE IT SO IN MY OWN HEAD.



THERE WAS A HOLE IN MY HEAD.



ONE INCH LONG AND SIXTY YEARS DEEP.



ONE DAY, THE HOLE
GOT BIG ENOUGH
FOR THE RAIN TO
FALL THROUGH

CANDY RAIN, WRAPPED
IN LURID GREEN AND
SUFFOCATING WHITE

I DON'T
TRUST

THEY NEVER HAD CANDY...
EASY PLEASURE

FISH BECAME BOYS,
HURLING THEMSELVES OUT
OF THE R C STREAM

THEY'D ONLY EVEN
UNWRAP THE STUFF

THEY TOOK IT IN
WOLFISH GULFS,
LIKE DROWNING
MEN SURFACING
IN A R

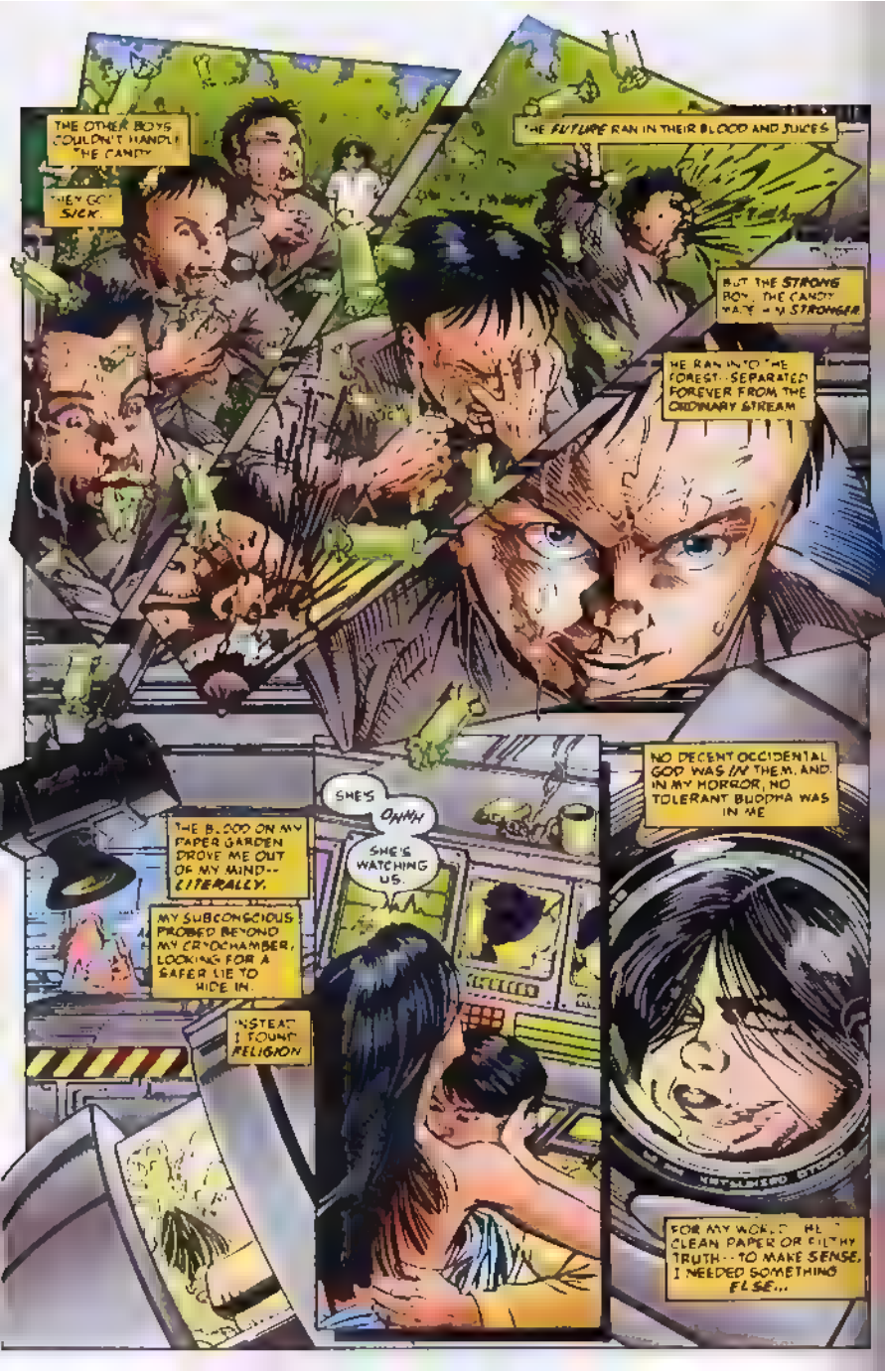
NEEDING
IT

CANDY GRINS ON EASY
FACES, SMELLING OF
LOCKER ROOMS AND
BEDSHEETS

I NEVER TRUSTED BOYS.

ONE ATE
MORE THAN
THE OTHERS.

- 5 EYES LIT UP LIKE
CREMATION FIRES, AND
HIS BELLY BECAME TIGHT
AND DISTENDED



THE OTHER BOYS
COULDN'T HANDLE
THE CANDY.

THEY GOT
SICK.

THE FUTURE RAN IN THEIR BLOOD AND JUICES.

BUT THE STRONG
BOY, THE CANDY
WAS A STRONGER.

HE RAN INTO THE
FOREST... SEPARATED
FOREVER FROM THE
ORDINARY STREAM.

THE BLOOD ON MY
PAPER GARDEN
DROVE ME OUT
OF MY MIND--
LITERALLY.

MY SUBCONSCIOUS
PROBED BEYOND
MY CRYOCHAMBER,
LOOKING FOR A
SAFER LIE TO
HIDE IN.

INSTEAD
I FOUND
RELIGION.

SHE'S

ONNN

SHE'S
WATCHING
US.

NO DECENT OCCIDENTAL
GOD WAS IN THEM, AND
IN MY HORROR, NO
TOLERANT BUDDHA WAS
IN ME.

FOR MY WORLD, HE
CLEAN PAPER OR FILTHY
TRUTH... TO MAKE SENSE,
I NEEDED SOMETHING
ELSE...



I DREAMT FOR
ANSWERS.

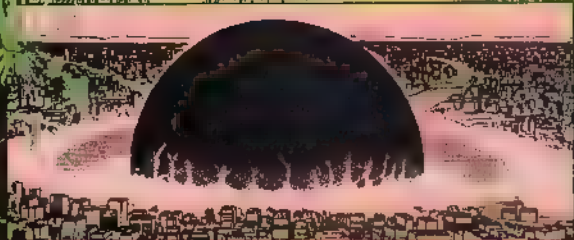
BUT MY TORTURE
GARDEN HELD ONLY
A QUESTION.



THE RAIN
FED A
SEED.



THE FLOWER REEKED OF
NECROSIS--CRUSHED
BABIES AND BURST
DOGS.





THE LAST OF MY
CHILDHOOD CAME DOWN
AS FALLOUT.

I WAITED FOR IT TO
FINISH WITH HOT
BLACK SNOW ON MY
SHOULDER



ONLY ONE SINGLE
TREE IN MY BEAUTI-
FUL FOREST SUR-
VIVED THE STORM

I COULDN'T
BRING MYSELF
TO TOUCH IT.



AS THE SUNLIGHT HARDENED
OVER THE TREE, VIET NAM
NEWSREELS FLASH-FORWARDED
THROUGH MY MEMORY.

MAGIC WORDS FROM ANOTHER
MAGIC GARDEN... PMZ, AND
FIREFIGHT, AND AGENT ORANGE...

...AND
NAPALM.



THE SUN GOT
BRIGHTER
SUDDENLY

ITS HARD LIGHT
BLEACHED MY SKIN,
AND PHOSPHORDOTS
EXPLODED ON MY
DEAD EYES

PRECOGNITION IS NOT
LIKE HAVING A ROSSIER
ON THE FUTURE DROPPED
AT YOUR FEET.

IT REQUIRES STRENGTH
AND FAITH. IT MUST BE
DECIPHERED.

SO I STOOD IN MY COLD
GARDEN AND READ THE
FUTURE IN THE MOVE-
MENT OF BLOOD IN AIR.

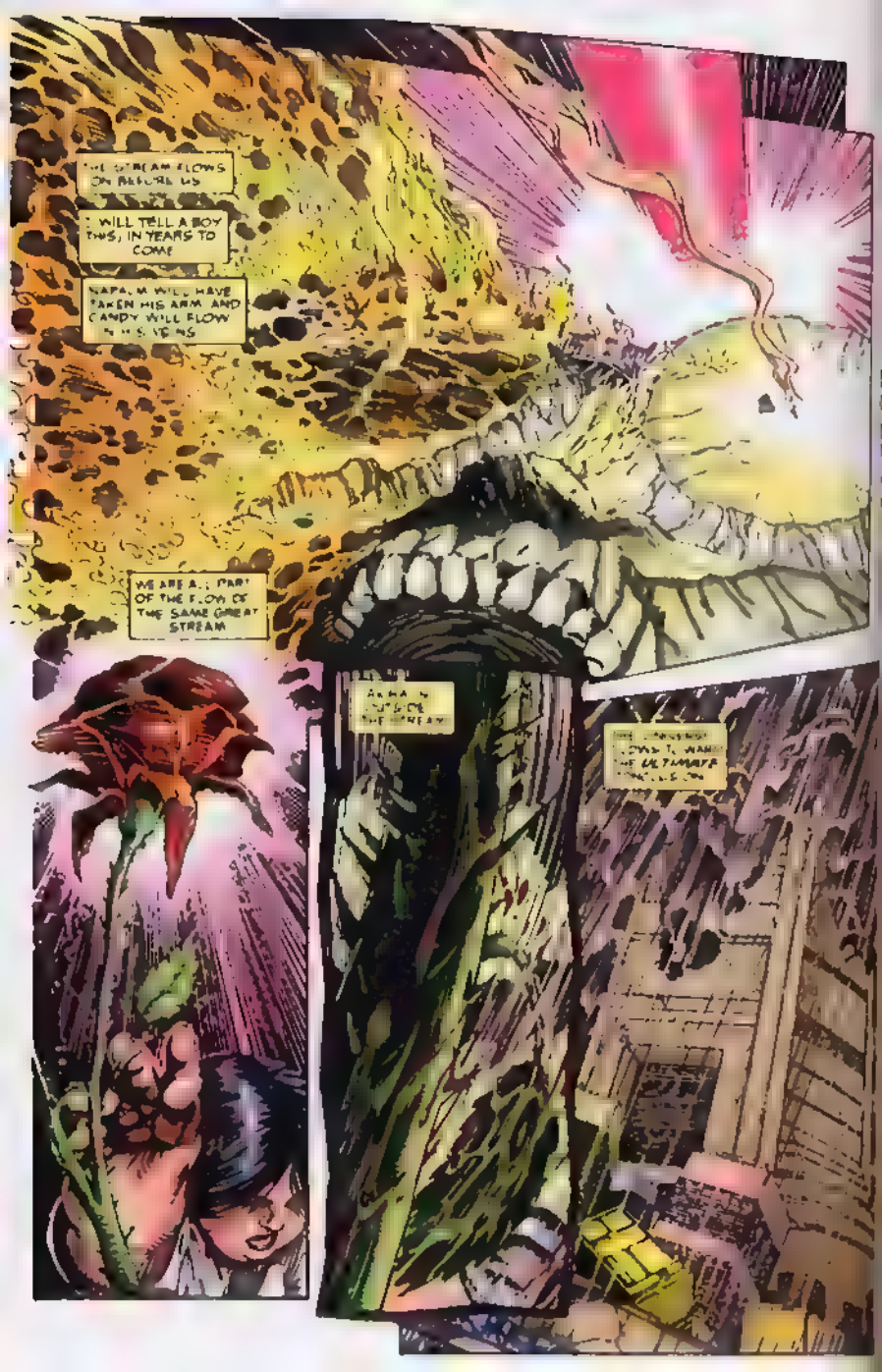
THEN IT HIT ME

CANDY

FLOWER

NAPALM





THE STREAM FLOWS
ON BEFORE US

I WILL TELL A BOY
THIS, IN YEARS TO
COME

NAPA, M WILL HAVE
TAKEN HIS ARM AND
CANDY WILL FLOW
IN HIS VEINS

WE ARE ALL PART
OF THE FLOW OF
THE SAME GREAT
STREAM

ARMAN
WILL BE
THE STREAM

THE ULTIMATE
WILL BE
THE ULTIMATE
WILL BE



KATSUHIRO OTOMO

writer • illustrations

SATOSHI TAKABATAKE

chief assistant to Katsuhiro Otomo

SATOSHI KON

additional artwork

HIROSHI HIRATA

designer • AURA calligraphy

AKIRA SAITO

designer • Kodansha edition

Kodansha, Ltd.

YOKO UMEZAWA

translation

KOICHI YURI

HISATAKA NISHITANI

editor • Kodansha edition

YUKA ANDO

SAM YOSHIBA

editorial coordinators • Tokyo

NORIYUKI OKAZAKI

managing editor • New York

Epic Comics

JO DUFFY

English script

STEVE OLIF

with the

OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW

English text

MICHAEL HIGGINS

with **LAURA BRADY**

editorial

KEVIN SOMERS

POLLY WATSON

assistant editors

MARIE JAVINS

editor

CARL POTTS

editor in chief

This is where it all comes together — and threatens to tear the planet apart. Ground troops move into the wreckage, bringing supplies to cover the fact that they're here to take the city by force. In a world hammered by change, the military's only desire is a return to the status quo. But the citizens of Neo-Tokyo have tasted the future — and they're not willing to step back without a fight. The war machines have been set loose against a ragtag army of rebels with little more than faith on its side. And the fate of a new empire hangs in the balance. Don't dare miss this thunderous conclusion to the Akira legend!

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



DIRECT EDITION

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